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<Lesson 25>

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Japanese Birthdays

Learn about asking the location of something/which floor something is on

Mark Complete

Dialogue

Vocabulary

Lesson Notes

Grammar

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Lesson Tr

Dialogue - Japanese

Hide

Kanji

English

Rōmaji

Hiragana

All

A: お名前は高山覚です。昭和45年の生まれです。群馬県の出身です。ご家族が3人います。

B: 家族？

A: そうですよ。奥さんと娘さんがいます。

B: 今二人はどこですか。教えてください。

A: それは...高山さん、話があります。高山さんは公安調査庁の役人ですから、まず首相に電話します。ちょっと待ってください。

Vocabulary

Hide

English

Kana

Rōmaji

昭和 [しょうわ]

the Showa Period

生まれ [うまれ]

birth

出身 [しゅっしん]

origin, from -

彼女はアフリカの出身だそうだ。

Apparently she's from Africa.

家族 [かぞく]

family

奥さん [おくさん]

wife

田中さんは奥さんと旅行に行った。

Mr. Tanaka went on a trip with his wife.

公安調査庁 [こうあんちょうさちょう]

Public Security Investigative Agency

役人 [やくにん]

government official

首相 [しゅしょう]

Prime Minister, Chancellor (Germany, Austria, etc.)

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

In Japan, people use the Japanese calendar system in addition to the western calendar. The Japanese calendar system corresponds with the reign of the Emperor. *Shōwa* used in today's dialog and means the *Shōwa* era, which corresponds to the reign of Emperor *Shōwa* (*Hirohito*), from December 25, 1926 to January 7, 1989. The current period is called *Heisei*, and it is now in *Heisei* 19.

If you live in Japan, you may be required to refer to your birth year by *Shōwa* in some public documents. If you were born in the *Shōwa* era, the easy way to know your birth year using *Shōwa* is to subtract 25 from the last two digits of your birth year by the western calendar. For example, if your birth year is 1970, 70 minus 25 equals 45, which means that 1970 is *Shōwa* 45.

Japanese Calendar

Western Calendar

Meiji 1 - 45

1868-1912

Taisho 1 - 15

1912-1926

Shōwa 1 - 64

1926-1989

Heisei 1 -

1989-

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Grammar

Hide

Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

です desu

to be (copula)

Used

か (1) ka (1)

question particle

Used

よ yo

you know

Used

いる (1) iru (1)

to exist (for animate, usually living, things)

Used

の (1) no (1)

possessive particle

Used

Kanji

Hide

KANJI

READING

MEANING

1ST CHARACTER

2ND CHARACTER

昭和

しょうわ

the Showa Period

昭・shining

和・harmony

生まれ

うまれ

birth

生・life

出身

しゅっしん

person's origin

出・exit

身・person

家族

かぞく

family

家・house

族・tribe

役人

やくにん

government official

役・duty

人・person

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